

## The Krueger-Scott Mansion

The Krueger Mansion, built in 1888 by Gottfried Krueger, a penniless German immigrant to Newark, and now referred to as the Krueger-Scott Mansion, was probably the most expensive home ever built in Newark's history. While its builder, Gottfried Krueger represented the very essence of the nineteenth century rags to riches success story, its twentieth century benefactor and friend Louise Scott saved it from certain destruction by making it her home, center of her financial operations, and site of the Scott Beauty College. In the interim between Krueger and Scott the Scottish Rite Valley of Newark Lodge purchased the house in the '20s and secured it from harm, built its 700-seat auditorium for programs, and maintained both the interior and exterior fabric of the historic site for nearly three decades, saving the Newark palace-like building for future generations.

Gottfried Krueger's Horatio Alger story took him from poor immigrant to partnership in a major American brewery in 1865 and sole owner in 1875 within half a lifetime. His political activities included serving as a New Jersey assemblyman and as judge on the State Court of Errors and Appeals. His community interests included financial encouragement and patronage of a variety of social agencies. He was instrumental in the founding of Saenger Hall and Gottfried Krueger Pioneer Home for the Aged (Pioneer Greisenheim). He was also a member of the Building Commission for City Hall.

In 1925 the Scottish Masonic Rite purchased the mansion along with most of the furnishings. It was hoped at the time that the building's future had been permanently insured by its new owner. But, in 1959, the mansion was again sold, and fortunately it was purchased by Louise Scott.

Louise Scott, like the mansion's builder, represented still another Horatio Alger story. Born into a farming family in Florence, South Carolina, she went to New York as a domestic, and in 1938 moved to New York City

where she continued working days, and studying beauty culture at night.

Hard work, and eighteen hour days, soon turned her first Newark beauty parlor, opened in 1940, into a chain of five beauty salons, a guest house, and a hotel. In 1958 she purchased the mansion which became the home of the Scott Business Enterprise. Like Krueger, Scott opened her heart to a host of community activities. "She often helped girls who had been in trouble...", instituted a day nursery, set up a baby keep well center, and became involved in a variety of church activities. Her death in 1983 was another turning point in the mansion's history.

The great house Krueger built, the Scottish Rite maintained, and that Scott preserved has been called Newark's most lavish private residence. Its 25 rooms, located on one of the city's highest points, overlooks downtown Newark and New York City ten miles to the east. Its interior was decorated in the styles of Louis XIV and XV, and the French Empire. Scores of European craftsmen were supervised by Herman Schultz. A pipe organ entertained visitors in the domed central corridor. Interior appointments included hardwood wainscoting, oak parquet floors, frescoed ceilings, and one of Newark's first residential elevators. Noteworthy rooms included the oak and leather embossed dining room, the cherry and morocco carved library, and the rosewood and pearl inlay decorated upstairs sitting rooms. The mansion's exterior of brownstone and pressed brick was carved with ornate decorations.

Over the years perhaps no other house in Newark came to symbolize so well the success of the city, or the opportunity for entrepreneurs such as Krueger or Scott.

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